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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. TOPIC Gadow-Rossow Bombing RangeEVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 May 1953REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

- 25X1 1. The following bombing practices were observed at Gadow-Rossow bombing range between 23 February and 12 April 1953:

23 February to 5 March. Almost every day jet planes released bombs. On 3 March, the first detonations were heard from the bombing range at about 8 p.m. The jet planes which approached individually and in groups of two and three still released bombs at 10 p.m.

6 and 7 March. There were no practices, probably because of rain and snow showers.

8 March. No bombs were dropped throughout the day, although alert was given which usually precedes bomb release. Bombing practices started about 8 p.m. and still continued about 11 p.m.

9 March. Practices were observed only at night.

10 and 11 March. Bomb release was practiced between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

12 March. Bombs were dropped at night.

13 March. Bombing was practiced between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. and after 10 p.m.

14 March. Especially loud detonations were heard at about 9 a.m. Bomb release continued until about 4 p.m.

15 March. Bombing was practiced at day and night; some particular loud detonations were again heard.

16 March. No bombs were dropped.

17 and 18 March. Bombing was practiced at daytime and during the night respectively.

19 March. In the morning, a formation of about 36 planes, probably jet bombers, approached in squadron wedge formation at such a high altitude that only vapor trails could be seen. According to a local resident, the unit released the bombs too early and therefore missed the target.

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20 March. Bombing was practiced throughout the day.

21 and 22 March. There was no bombing activity.

1 April. Between 9 and 10 a.m., bombs were continually released over the bombing range. There was hazy weather. Bombing was resumed about 8:15 p.m. by aircraft approaching individually at an estimated altitude of 1,500 meters.

2 April. Throughout the day, jet bombers individually dropped bombs from high altitudes at intervals of half an hour. There was a 3/10 overcast. Between 8 and 10:30 p.m., bombs fitted with pyrotechnic composition were released. Fuel containers filled with oil soaked rags were burning at the bombing range.

3 April. Between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., bomb release was practiced at intervals of about half an hour, one or two bombs being dropped at a time. The sky was 8/10 overcast.

4 April. Bomb release was practiced from altitudes of 1,000 to 2,000 meters at intervals of 10 to 30 minutes. One or two bombs were dropped at a time.

5 April. No bomb release was practiced. A red ground signal was observed at 12:30 p.m. and subsequently a detonation was heard possibly the blasting of a dud.

6 April. At 11:45 a.m., a squadron of jet bombers approached being escorted by three swept-back jet fighters. Each jet bomber released one bomb.

7 April. No bomb release was observed. There was a closed cloud base with intermittent rain showers.

8 April. After 11:15 a.m., individual bombs were dropped. Between noon and 2 p.m., bombs were dropped from aircraft flying in flight formation, each plane releasing one bomb. Between 8 p.m. and midnight, bombs with pyrotechnic compositions were released.

9 April. Between 8 and 9 a.m., one jet bomber and between 9 and 9:30 a.m. two jet bombers circled over the bombing range without dropping bombs. Between noon and 4 p.m. bombs were released although there was no ground visibility, while the weather was hazy and the cloud base low.

10 April. Bombs were released from aircraft flying in flight formation. Between 7:45 p.m. and the early morning of the next day, bombing was practiced.

11 April. Between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., the bombing range was blocked. Ground target were being set up.

12 April. No bomb release was practiced.

2. At 8 a.m. on 4 April, a biplane [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] landed next to the Gadow cemetery. An air force senior lieutenant descended from the plane. About 11 a.m. the plane again took off with a second lieutenant on board who had arrived from the direction of the observation tower at Glashuette. 1
3. During the night of 12 March, a local resident in the area of the bombing range repeatedly observed that a trail of fire detached from a plane, quickly fell to the ground and was followed by a detonation. [redacted] 25X1
iron plates and gun dummies were newly erected at the range. "

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4. In April trucks [redacted] were in communication with the target erection detail in the area of the bombing range.
5. The following bombing activity was observed at the bombing range between 10 March and 4 April:

10 March. Between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., individual jet bombers approached at an altitude of 5,000 to 6,000 meters and at intervals of about 5 minutes.

8 and 15 March. Throughout the day individual jet bomber approached at an altitude of about 6,000 meters. Mostly one detonation and some times several loud detonations were heard.

19 March. At 9:30 a.m., a formation of 27 jet bombers, escorted by at least 16 swept-back jet fighters were observed leaving. The planes flew at a very high altitude that they could hardly be seen. They were mostly recognized by their vapor trails. The column of planes flew in three squadron wedge formations of nine planes each, the distance between the wedge formations being 10 to 15 aircraft lengths. While the bomber unit flew straight ahead, the swept-back jet fighters circled around the formation. After crossing the bombing range, the bomber unit changed the formation to a group wedge, the second and third squadrons flying to the left and right respectively. The bomber formation headed to the south. Aircraft flying in a widely spread-out formation approached the bomber formation from that direction. From the vapor trails which entangled when the two units met, [redacted] the newly arrived unit was a fighter formation which attacked the bombers. At 11:30 a.m., another unit of 36 jet bombers, escorted by about 26 swept-back jet fighters appeared at an altitude higher than that of the first formation. Loud detonations were heard when the planes flew over the bombing range.

20 March. Between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., four jet bombers crossing at an altitude of 6,000 to 7,000 meters released one bomb each. There were no clouds.

21 to 24 March. No bombs were dropped in clear weather. Between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. on 24 March, jet aircraft crossed the bombing range. When approaching, each plane signaled with its landing light and released two bombs. The night was clear.

25 March. No practices were observed in clear weather.

2 April. Between 8:30 and 9:15 p.m., one bomb each was dropped from aircraft which, according to their noise, were jet bombers.

4 April. During the morning jet bombers were observed over the bombing range. The weather was hazy.

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6. On 22 March, [redacted] two new bombing ranges, one near the Hammelstall settlement and the other one 2 km east of Hammelstall, were under construction. Allegedly, bombs had been dropped on these ranges.
7. On 22 March, about 25 soldiers were playing football in the yard of Roseneck estate. Two trucks were seen there. ¹

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- 25X1 1. [] Comment. These details give a good picture on bomb release practices at Gadow-Rossow bombing range by the Northern Bmr Div. The joint exercises by Il-28 units on 19 March were probably conducted with fighter planes of the fighter regiment in Neuruppin. There a sizeable number of MiG-15s took off about 10:45 a.m. to escort a large unit of Il-28s which were observed crossing the field. [] On the same day [] 25X1
- 25X1 observed intensive air activity by units of 20 and 27 Il-28s at Brand and Werneuchen airfields respectively.
- 25X1 2. [] Comment. During night practices, the bombs are probably fitted with pyrotechnic composition to enable the crews of the Il-28 planes to observe the course of the bombs. This observation is possibly made from the tail-gun position of the Il-28.

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